GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1744
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007
PENSION OF SEAFARERS
Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any pension policy for port workers and seafarers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether demand for increase of pension to the retired Seafarers is pending for a long time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b): At present, there is no Government pension scheme for seafarers. Details of pension schemes for various categories of port workers are being collected.

(c) to (e): The Seafarers' Welfare Fund Society (SWFS), Mumbai, a society under Societies Registration Act, 1860 implements various welfare schemes for retired seafarers and their family members, viz, Monthly Ex-gratia Monetary Assistance (MEMA), Ad-hoc Ex-gratia Financial Assistance to the widow of the deceased seafarers, Death Compensation, Educational Scholarships to two children/brothers/sisters of working seamen, etc.

Retired seafarers have been representing for enhancement of amount under the MEMA Scheme. However, since the funds available with the Society will not be sufficient to continue the scheme for more than 3-4 years, enhancement of amount of MEMA could not be considered.